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Official: Chavez 'clearly' recovering

CARACAS (AFP) - Hugo Chavez is making steady progress recovering from cancer surgery, the leader of Venezuela's parliament said yesterday.

"The health of Comandante Chavez is clearly recovering," said National Assembly President Diosdado Cabello. "He

continues to make consistent but gradual progress."

Chavez has not been seen or heard from since his last cancer operation on December 11 in Havana, and any news about his health is closely monitored by the Venezuelans. Chavez is still recovering at a hospital in Cuba's capital.

Gladys Martina of TOB is 19th Senora Carnival; Samantha Anais Robert of Royal Carnival Group crowned Aruba's 59th Grand Carnival Queen

On Friday evening, February 1, the spectacular pageant to select Aruba's 59th Grand Carnival Queen was combined with the Senora Carnival selection, for a varied and elaborate production in the Aruba Entertainment Centers.

Aruba has a Miss Universe candidate pageant each year, but undoubtedly, the Grand Carnival Queen pageant could be equaled to the local "Miss America" selection. The costumes, shows, and pageantry is without equal, each year taking advantage of the latest technology to present a spectacular show.



Minister Dr Richard Visser with Grand Queen Samantha Anais Robert and Mrs Carnival Gladys Martina

Continued on page 2

Tivoli Lighting Parade sets the streets of Oranjestad aglow



See coverage on page 3



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Samantha Anais Robert of Royal Carnival Group crowned Aruba's 59th Grand Carnival Queen

Continued from page 1



Best Show, Best Costume, Best Make, Queen Samantha Anais Robert



Best Speech, Most Popular, first runner up Jeanique de Palm



Grand Queen and First Runner up



Stacey Croes La Cabana and Glitz Casino

Lovely young Samantha Anais Robert representing Royal Carnival Group took the crown, as well as winning Best Show, Best Costume and winning the Revlon Best Makeup title. First Runner-up was Jeanique de Palm of Champagne Carnival Group, who also was awarded Best Speech and Most Popular.

Kimberly Raines, the Queen of the EPI School was named Queen of SETAR, Aruba's national telecommunications company, by SMS and online voting, and was also selected as Revlon's Most Popular.

Rounding out the field of five candidates were Giorgina Martinus representing TOB Carnival Group and Stacey Croes, the Queen of La Cabana Beach Resort & Glitz Casino.

Senora Carnival #19 is the very animated Gladys Martina of TOB, who also won Best Show. The panel of judges decided Jeanine Roga Wernet of Royal Carnival Group gave the Best Speech and wore the Best Costume. Olga Olivia Tromp the Government Workers' Senora Carnival candidate completed the roster.

Aruba's Minister of Public Health and Sports, Dr. Richard Visser, officially crowned this year's carnival queens at the end of a program filled with rousing performances and sporadic showers, which dampened the spirits of dedicated carnivalistas not in the slightest!

(For Sra Carnaval pictures see pg 4)

Rosalie Klein



Most Popular Revlon and SETAR Queen Kimberly Raines



Giorgina Martinus of TOB

Tivoli Lighting Parade sets the streets of Oranjestad aglow



A traditionally delightful night for spectators as well as participants is Aruba's annual Tivoli Lighting Parade, one of Carnival's most anticipated events.

Oranjestad's main thoroughfares were filled with revelers dancing to favorite carnival songs, most of them aglow with creatively lit costumes, while flashing floats set the streets aglow.

Ten groups joined the spectacle with a total of 2500 participants in elaborate cos-

tume led by Robert and his Solo Banda Show, then Royal Carnival Group, and the reigning Carnival Queen elected just two nights before.

The largest group was TOB with 600 dancers in green conveying a theme of nature conservation and protecting the environment.

Music and dancing lasted until the wee hours of the morning for a spectacular display of carnival spirit and artistry.

Rosalie Klein



Cory Guest and Wife of Marriott Ocean club



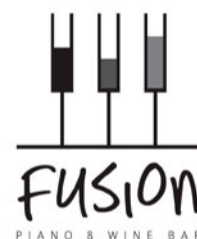
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Announcement

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SETAR NV celebrates the 10th anniversary of privatization



SETAR Director Roland Croes, Marketing Manager Shahaira Labad and Employees Representative Richard Kelly.



Roland Croes, Director of SETAR NV, Aruba's national telecommunications company welcomed media to their Seroe Blanco headquarters on Friday morning, February 1, to personally thank all of SETAR NV's loyal clients, supportive stakeholders, and tenacious and efficient employees for ten successful years of moving the company forward.

Director Croes, with SETAR for 30 years, still maintains the position where he was placed when the government agency was first privatized. "Our emphasis has always been advancing to the newest technologies, expanding our scope and placing client service at the fore," he explained. "This is why SETAR NV has maintained its position as the most popular and successful telecommuni-

cations company on Aruba, even after being privatized and having competing companies established on the island."

SETAR NV set policies among employees for required levels of productivity. Richard Kelly, head of the SETAR Worker's Union, stated after 20 years with the company, he was proud to be part of the SETAR team, as are all his fellow workers and union members. He extended his congratulations to the company on its 10th anniversary on behalf of all those in the union.

SETAR N.V. Marketing Manager Shahaira Labad informed the media that in celebration the company is randomly selecting 10 customers who subscribe to any of their services to win 1,000 Aruban florins each, for a total of 10,000 Aruban florins in prize money.

Other perks were offered to SETAR NV clients on their anniversary, February 1, such as 10% discount on any purchase from their new SETAR shop opened last year on Caya Betico Croes, and a day of free SETAR to SETAR calls for all their Post Paid cell phone clients.

Rosalie Klein

Finally, a honeymoon for Igor and Josephina after years of annually visiting Aruba

After chatting with Igor Koulichkov for awhile, one can definitely come away with the impression that this is a man who lived his life and did it all, as Frank Sinatra sings "My Way." He began coming to Aruba back in 1968 with two fellow bachelor friends, Harry Adams and Irving Feldman, staying at the Holiday Inn.

They all fell in love with the island, chipping in to purchase a fabulous deal on a piece of property in Malmok, right on the water, where building plans had already been approved and a foundation poured. For an investment of only \$5,000 each, they acquired the property. Another \$25,000 built a fabulous 3 bedroom, 3 bath house and for \$5,000 they furnished it completely in tropical rattan, after a shopping trip to Venezuela.

For seven years, until 1974, Igor and his friends visited their island home at least half a dozen times a year, usually in the company of a different lady each time. They thoroughly enjoyed the swinging bachelor's life a home in Aruba provided. "In those days, you could fly to Aruba for \$150 round trip, which is chump's change. Attractive ladies were thrilled to join us for a Caribbean vacation away from the cold or during the holidays," explains Igor. They soon made friends with casino managers and restaurateurs within the close knit community. "We had them over to the house for parties constantly, and when we went out we were treated like kings. Those were terrific times," he recalls wistfully.

Unfortunately, their partner Irving decided to become a resident of Aruba, which is all well and good, and opened one of the first Italian restaurants. He did business with many of



Newlyweds Josephina and Igor

the casino owners as part of the "dine around" plans for junketeers. This is when Irving discovered a taste, but no talent, for gambling. "I was sitting in my Manhattan office with Harry in 1974, when in walks Irving to inform us he lost the house and all our personal belongings by running up a huge debt at one of the casinos. What could we say or do? He said "I have bad news and bad news," then walked out the door and I never saw or heard from him again. Harry and I were devastated."

It didn't keep Igor away from Aruba, though. He soon made it a regular practice to return to the island annually, staying at the Holiday Inn. He remained a carefree bachelor all his life until sixteen years ago, when he met the lovely and vivacious Josephina on New Year's Eve, while flying from Colombia to Quito, Ecuador, her homeland. They exchanged contact information. Their first date was a three-day weekend on Margarita Island, Venezuela. One year later, she moved into his Manhattan apartment, and they began visiting Aruba together annually.

One of their mutual passions is golf, though when they met, Josephina had never

heard of the sport. Igor introduced her to it during the Margarita Island sojourn, "and now she is a bigger golf nut than I am," he claims. As soon as the Tierra Del Sol course was opened, they began renting a villa at the country club, which they continue to do annually. They love the accommodations; especially having their own place with room to spare so they can bring along a fellow golf fanatic. Fantastic vistas and the option of just rolling out of bed onto the greens every day, make it the perfect place for them.

Finally, after sixteen years as devoted companions and his whole life as a bachelor, Igor wed Josephina on January 3, and is finally visiting Aruba as his honeymoon destination. Most frequent visitors will tell a reporter they honeymooned on the island, and have been coming for 20, 30 or more years, but Igor, who always insisted on doing it "My Way," has had 45 years of Aruba vacations before finally joining others on this popular honeymoon destination.

THE MORNING NEWS wishes the newlyweds many more years of wedded bliss and pleasant times on Aruba.

Rosalie Klein

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Mrs Carnival and best show 2013 Gladys Martina

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Gladys Martina of TOB is 19th Senora Carnival

Continued from page 2



Mrs Carnival and best show 2013 Gladys Martina



Best Speech and Best Costume Jeanine Roga of Royal Carnival Group

Photo at left:
Senora Carnival Gladys Martina of TOB
with Minister Visser

Photo at right:
Outgoing Senora Carnival



Olga Olivia representing Government workers



Paraguay presidential candidate dies in helicopter crash



ASUNCION (AFP) - A conservative candidate in Paraguayan presidential elections scheduled for April has

died in a helicopter crash, the government said Sunday.

Lino Cesar Oviedo, his bodyguard and their pilot died in the crash Saturday night after taking part in a campaign rally and flying back to the capital Asuncion.

Oviedo, 69, was the candidate of a conservative party called Unace. He is a former army chief who got into politics in 1996.

The cause of the crash was not immediately known, although early indications were it may have been bad weather.

Civil aviation director Carlos Fugarazzo announced a probe that a probe has been launched and said international experts would be called in.

"At this point, all hypotheses are open" as to what might have caused the crash, he told a news conference.

The election is scheduled for April 21. Oviedo's party is among around a dozen in the running. Unace is a splinter group that broke away from the Colorado Party.

Oviedo's death was first confirmed to AFP by Senator Herminio Chena, who is close to Oviedo's family.

The chopper went down in a rural area.

When long-time dictator Alfredo Stroessner surrendered in a 1989 military coup, it was Oviedo who took custody of him in a bunker. Oviedo died 24 years to the day since that event.

Assad lashes out as Israel admits Syria raid

MUNICH, Germany (AFP) - Israel on Sunday implicitly confirmed it staged an air strike on Syria last week as President Bashar al-Assad accused the Jewish state of trying to further destabilise his war-torn country.

The foreign minister of Damascus ally Iran, meanwhile, said he welcomed Syrian opposition leader Ahmed Moaz al-Khatib's stated readiness to hold talks with representatives of Assad's regime.

Four days after an air raid which Damascus said targeted a military complex near

the capital, Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak spoke to reporters in Munich but refrained from explicitly confirming that Israel staged the strike.

Barak told the Munich Security Conference that it was "another proof that when we say something we mean it."

"We say that we don't think that it should be allowable to bring advanced weapon systems into Lebanon, the Hezbollah from Syria, when Assad falls," Barak said.

Wednesday's air strike targeted surface-to-air missiles

and an adjacent military complex believed to house chemical agents, according to a US official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Damascus has threatened to retaliate, further fuelling fears of a regional spillover of the country's 22-month conflict which the UN says has already left more than 60,000 people dead.

A fierce critic of both Assad and Israel, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan accused Israel of waging "state terrorism" as he condemned the air strike on Syria as an unacceptable violation of international law.

"We cannot regard a violation of air space as acceptable. What Israel does is completely against international law... it is beyond condemnation," Erdogan told reporters.

In the wake of the strike, US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta told AFP that Washington was increasingly concerned that Syria's "chaos" could allow Lebanon's powerful Hezbollah movement to obtain sophisticated weapons from Damascus.

Israeli armed forces chief Lieutenant General Benny Gantz on Sunday started a visit to Washington with the Syrian conflict and Iran's controversial nuclear programme on his agenda.

And US Vice President Joe Biden flew in to Paris for talks on Monday with President Francois Hollande also covering Syria.

Johnny Depp to star as gangster in 'Black Mass'



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - US star Johnny Depp will play notorious Boston gangster Whitey Bulger in the film "Black Mass", to be directed by Barry Levinson, the producers announced Saturday.

The film recounts the fate of the godfather of Boston's underworld who became

an FBI informant to get rid of a gangster rival but was eventually arrested in 2011.

Adapted from a book by two Boston Globe journalists, "Black Mass" will be directed by Barry Levinson, who won an Oscar for best director in 1988 for "Rain Man."

Shooting will start in May and the film will be distributed by Universal Studios, said a statement from co-producer Cross Creek.

Depp, 49, will also play in Disney's "The Lone Ranger" scheduled for release next summer.

In June, the actor announced his separation from long-term partner Vanessa Paradis with whom he has two children.



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Indian President approves death penalty in some rape cases

NEW DELHI (AFP) - India's president on Sunday approved harsher punishments for rapists, including the death penalty, after a brutal gang-rape in New Delhi sparked national outrage and triggered demands for tougher laws.

President Pranab Mukherjee gave his assent to the new rape law two days after cabinet ministers recommended changes to improve safety for women.

A government-appointed panel and the cabinet had recommended tougher laws after the death of a 23-year-old woman who was savagely raped and attacked in a bus on December 16 and died nearly two weeks later.

Under the changes, the minimum sentence for gang-rape, rape of a minor, rape by policemen or a person in authority will be doubled to 20 years from 10 and can be extended to life without parole.

In the existing law, a rapist faces a term of seven to 10 years.

The cabinet has also created a new set of offences such as voyeurism and stalking that will be included in the new law.

But women rights activists have slammed the ordinance saying it lacks teeth to fight sexual crimes against women and lashed out at the government for passing the law without holding a debate or discussion.

Iran announces nuclear talks, open to 'authentic' US meet

MUNICH, Germany (AFP) - Iran on Sunday announced fresh talks with world powers on its nuclear drive and said it was open to an offer from the US for two-way discussions if Washington's intention was "authentic".

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi said the six world powers planned to resume talks in Kazakhstan on February 25, and he insisted that Iran had never pulled back from the negotiations.

"I have good news, I've heard yesterday that 5+1 or EU3+3 will be meeting in Kazakhstan 25th of February," Salehi said during a panel discussion at the Munich Security Conference.

Iran and six world powers -- the US, China, Russia, Britain, France and Germany -- held three rounds of talks last year aimed at easing the standoff over Iran's nuclear activities, which Tehran insists are peaceful.

The six, known as the P5+1 or EU3+3, called on Iran to roll back its pro-

gramme but stopped short of meeting Tehran's demands that they scale back sanctions, and the last round ended in stalemate in June in Moscow.

Since then, talks have been held up over disagreements on their location.

The European Union welcomed Salehi's announcement.

"It is good to hear that the foreign minister finally confirmed now. We hope the negotiating team will also confirm," said Michael Mann, a spokesman for the EU's top diplomat Catherine Ashton.

Salehi said Iran took comments by US officials, including Vice President Joe Biden, who said at the Munich conference on Saturday that Washington was ready to hold talks with Iran on its nuclear programme, "with positive consideration".

Washington ruptured diplomatic ties with Iran in the wake of the 1979 revolution, and relations remain hostile.

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Mainstreet Downtown Aruba

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Doctors: Pakistan's Malala has successful surgery

LONDON (AFP) - British doctors said yesterday that Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani schoolgirl shot in the head by the Taliban as punishment for campaigning for girls' education, has had successful surgery on her skull.

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital in the central English city of Birmingham said the 15-year-old had undergone two operations on Saturday to insert a titanium plate into her skull and fit an electronic device in her ear.

In an attack that shocked the world, Malala was shot by a Taliban gunman at point-blank range as her schoolbus travelled through Pakistan's Swat Valley on October 9.

She was flown to Britain days later for treatment to the specialist hospital, which also treats British soldiers wounded in Afghanistan.

Malala, who has become a

global symbol of the campaign for girls' right to an education, was nominated Friday for this year's Nobel Peace Prize.

A hospital spokeswoman said the schoolgirl's medical team were "very pleased" with her progress following five hours of surgery.

"Both operations were a success and Malala is now recovering in hospital," the spokeswoman said.

"Her condition is described as stable and her medical team are very pleased with the progress she has made so far. She is awake and talking to staff and members of her family."

At a press conference on Wednesday giving details of the surgery, Malala's doctors said the custom-made titanium plate would protect her brain by covering the hole left in her head by the bullet.

Doctors say the bullet grazed Malala's brain, coming within centimeters of killing her, and travelled through her head and neck before lodging in her left shoulder.

Rash of criminal attacks reported in South Brazil

SAO PAULO (AFP) - A rash of criminal attacks, including the torching of buses and firing on police, have been reported across the southern Brazilian state of Santa Catarina, and authorities blame them on a crackdown on drug trafficking and a prison-based gang.

In the latest incidents, a 22-year-old suspected criminal was killed in an overnight shootout with police in Joinville, in the north of the state, while shots were fired at police and three buses and two cars torched across the state, security officials said.

A statement from the Santa Catarina public security secre-

Famed 'American sniper' killed at Texas shooting range

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The man hailed as the deadliest military sniper in US history has been shot to death at a Texas firing range, allegedly by a former soldier with post-traumatic stress disorder.

The death of former Navy SEAL Chris Kyle, 38, was confirmed yesterday by FITCO Cares, a foundation he helped start that worked with returning soldiers to help them cope with PTSD -- the same ailment that the alleged shooter is said to have suffered from.

Kyle was also the author of a best-selling book released last year, "American Sniper: The Autobiography of the Most Lethal Sniper in US Military History."

"Chris Kyle helped establish this foundation and we are committed to make sure his memory lives on forever," FITCO said in a eulogy to Kyle posted on its website. "Please pray for all those who loved Chris. He will be forever missed."

The shooting comes amid a raging debate in the United States over gun violence, espe-

cially perpetrated by those suffering from mental or emotional illness, after a series of high profile shootings.

The effort to ban assault rifles and high capacity magazines has become a centerpiece of President Barack Obama's second term agenda after a disturbed young man gunned down 20 children and six adults on December 14 in the once quiet town of Newtown, Connecticut, in one of the most notorious of the recent shootings.

Kyle was a former US Navy SEAL sniper credited with killing more than 150 insurgents in Iraq, during four tours of duty, from 1999 to 2009.

He died Saturday at a firing range in Glen Rose, Texas, while helping a soldier recovering from the condition, an ABC affiliate in Dallas, WFAA-TV, reported. A neighbor of Kyle reportedly was also killed.

A suspect has been arrested, and was identified as 25-year-old Eddie Routh. WFAA-TV quoted investigators as saying Routh is a former Marine who is believed to suffer from PTSD.

The Dallas Morning News



Chris Kyle

wrote that Kyle was awarded two Silver Stars and five Bronze Stars with Valor for his military service.

The marksman wrote in "American Sniper" that his accuracy as a sniper was so deadly that Iraqi insurgents put a price on his head.

Kyle said in an interview with the daily that he was born for the work of a military marksman. "When I grew up, I only had two dreams," he told the Dallas Morning News about a year ago.

The foundation he led, which said Kyle was survived by a wife and two young children, vowed to would continue his work to help soldiers left emotionally and psychologically scarred by combat.

Guyanese soldiers charged with raiding mining camps

GEORGETOWN (AFP) - Five Guyana Defence Force soldiers have been charged in connection with the beating up of several Guyanese and Brazilian miners and robbing them of raw gold, the army said yesterday.

The GDF said the Lieutenant, Lance Corporal and three privates have been remanded to a military prison pending court martial proceedings.

The illegal raids, larceny and assault were allegedly committed at several mining camps in western Guyana near the border with Venezuela.

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Health**World Cancer Day 2013:****Dispelling myths and misconceptions about cancer***Of all the diseases that plague mankind, none of them has caused more panic than cancer.**Cancer is a leading cause of death worldwide and accounted for 7.6 million deaths (around 13% of all deaths) in 2008.**Each year on 4 February, WHO supports International Union Against Cancer to promote ways to ease the global burden of cancer.**Preventing cancer and raising quality of life for cancer patients are recurring themes.*

World Cancer Day is the one initiative under which the entire world can unite in the fight against the global cancer epidemic.

It takes place every year on 4 February. World Cancer Day aims to save millions of preventable deaths each year by raising awareness and education about cancer, and pressing governments and individuals across the world to take action against the disease.

This year's World Cancer Day campaign will focus on Target 5 of the World Cancer Declaration: **Dispel damaging myths and misconceptions about cancer, under the tagline "Cancer – Did you know?"**

World Cancer Day is a chance to raise our collective voices in the name of improving general knowledge around cancer and dismissing misconceptions about the disease. From a global level, we will be focusing our messaging on the four myths below. In addition to being in-line with our global advocacy goals, we believe these overarching myths leave a lot of flexibility for members, partners and supporters to adapt and expand on for their own needs.

Myth 1: Cancer is just a health issue

Truth: Cancer is not just a health issue. It has wide-reaching social, economic, development, and human



rights implications.

Fact: Cancer constitutes a major challenge to development, undermining social and economic advances throughout the world.

Myth 2: Cancer is a disease of the wealthy, elderly and developed countries

Truth: Cancer does not discriminate. It is a global epidemic, affecting all ages, with low- and middle income countries bearing a disproportionate burden.

Fact: Cancer is a global issue and becoming an increasing public health prob-

lem in developing countries.

Myth 3: Cancer is a death sentence

Truth: Many cancers that were once considered a death sentence can now be cured and for many more people their cancer can now be treated effectively.

Fact: Advances in understanding risk and prevention, early detection and treatment have revolutionised the management of cancer leading to improved outcomes for patients.

Myth 4: Cancer is my fate

Truth: With the right

strategies, more than one in every three cancers can be prevented.

Fact: Prevention is the most cost-effective and sustainable way of reducing the global cancer burden in the long-term.

WHY WORLD CANCER DAY IS IMPORTANT

Put simply, because the global cancer epidemic is huge and is set to rise. Every year, nearly 8 million people die of cancer and many of these deaths can be avoided with increased governmental support and funding for prevention, detection and treatment programmes. Unless urgent action is taken to raise awareness about cancer and develop practical strategies to address the disease, millions of people will continue to die. Significantly, the number of cancer cases and related deaths worldwide is estimated to double over the next 20-40 years, with the greatest increase in low- and middle-income countries – those which are least equipped to cope with the social and economic impact of the disease. However, one in every three cancer cases could be prevented and World Cancer Day is the ideal opportunity to spread the word in order to help these numbers decrease for the future generations.

A CAMPAIGN DIRECTLY ALIGNED WITH GLOBAL ADVOCACY**CACY**

In 2008, UICC developed the World Cancer Declaration as a tool to help bring the growing cancer crisis to the attention of government leaders and health policymakers. The 11 Declaration targets, designed to significantly reduce the global cancer burden by 2020, have served as the basis for UICC recommendations to the World Health Organization (WHO). The Declaration, with more than half a million signatories, has also been instrumental in generating political will for cancer control targets both at UN and grassroots levels. In close collaboration with the NCD Alliance, UICC played a key role recently in securing WHO's global health target of a 25% reduction in premature deaths from NCDs by 2025 (known as "25 by 25"), at the World Health Assembly in May 2012 – demonstrating the important role advocacy plays in the global fight against cancer.

Less than half of all countries in the world have functioning plans to prevent cancer and provide treatment and care to cancer patients, the World Health Organisation lamented Friday.

Legendary Carnival Special & Carnival Costume Show at Hard Rock Cafe



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* In 10 minutes, a hurricane releases more energy than all of the world's nuclear weapons combined.

* Pearls melt in vinegar.

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Sci-Tech

Hacking incidents ignite fears over China

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A string of cyberattacks on major US media outlets like the New York Times has intensified worries over Chinese hackers, who analysts say are probably linked to the secretive Beijing government.

The attacks, part of a series of incidents traced to Chinese servers associated with previous intrusions, underscore an urgent need for Washington to pressure Beijing to rein in its digital warriors, experts say.

Other security professionals argue it is hard to be certain the attacks stem from China or that the hackers acted at the behest of the government.

This week the Times and Wall Street Journal reported that their computer networks had been compromised, and alleged it was an effort by the Chinese government to spy on news media operating in the country.

On Friday Twitter said it, too, had been hit with a sophisticated cyberattack. It did not name the suspected source but said the infiltration was similar to those suf-

fered by big news media.

And on Saturday, The Washington Post disclosed that in 2011 it too had been targeted in a cyberattack and suspected Chinese hackers were behind it.

James Lewis, cybersecurity specialist at US thinktank the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said there is evidence that backs the allegations of Chinese government involvement.

Hackers from China have previously been linked to attacks on US defense giant Lockheed-Martin, Google and Coca-Cola. Other reports say Chinese hackers have tried to infiltrate the Pentagon's computers and those of US lawmakers.

"The Chinese don't play by the rules that the rest of the world plays by," Lewis told AFP. "That's partly because they don't understand them and partly because they don't value them."

Lewis said the level of attacks is "reaching an intolerable level" and will force a US government response that goes beyond words.

The Wall Street Journal reported on Friday that in his

coming book, Google chairman Eric Schmidt brands China an Internet menace that sanctions cyber crime for economic and political gain.

"The New Digital Age" is authored by Schmidt in a collaboration with Jared Cohen, a former US State Department advisor who heads a Google Ideas think tank. The book is due for release in April.

The authors reportedly brand China "the world's most active and enthusiastic filterer of information" and "the most sophisticated and prolific" hacker of foreign companies.

China's defense ministry reiterated comments this week that it "never supported any hacking attacks."

Ryan Sherstobitoff, a researcher with the security firm McAfee, said that "it's hard to pinpoint the origin" of the attacks because computer traffic can be routed through various locations.

But he said the overwhelming majority of computer infiltrations come from employees mistakenly opening booby-trapped email attachments faked to appear as if it came from a colleague.

COMICS



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GONE BUGGY

ACROSS

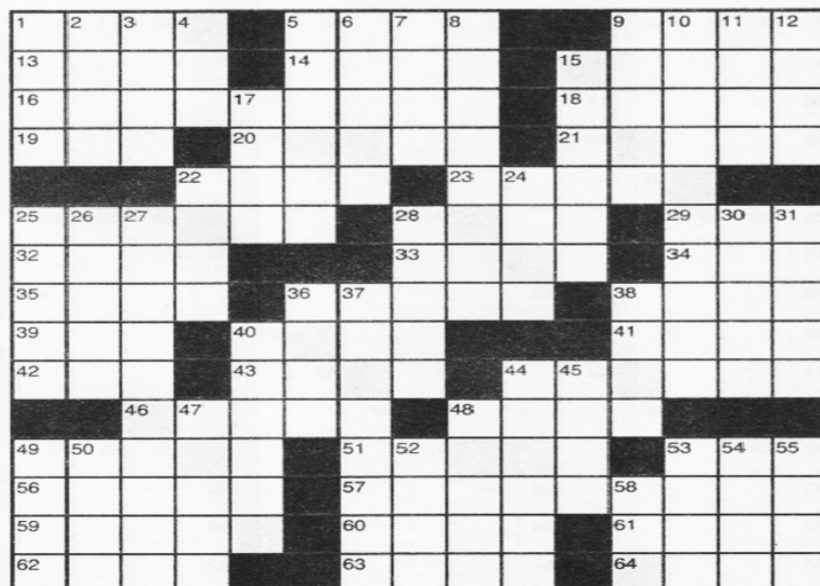
1. Get together
5. Thrust
9. Blind as —
13. Airport postings: abbr.
14. Caffeinated soda
15. Dakota Indian
16. Victorian fashion ideal
18. Incendiarism
19. Shrewd
20. Apportion
21. Helen of the stage
22. Roman greetings
23. Buddhist holy city
25. Eliza Doolittle's dad
28. Come down in buckets
29. Compass pt.
32. Incense
33. Shakespearean actors' sch.
34. Peak: prefix
35. "___ Bayou" (1997 film)
36. Strong glue
38. Sonia the Duck's instrument
39. Poet's funding gp.
40. Close the noisy way
41. Soaks
42. Supply with weapons
43. Hinged fastener
44. Least furnished
46. Emissary
48. Chums

DOWN

49. Comedian Milton
51. Glowering
53. Fuss
56. Inquirer
57. Out of fashion
59. British guns
60. Duel tool
61. Thespian's quest
62. Bowler and beret
63. Remit
64. Spy Aldrich
1. Requests for milk
2. Common Latin abbr.
3. Uncomplicated
4. Small amt.
5. Stripped a fish

6. Labors
7. Too
8. Virago
9. Wall hanging
10. Working nonstop
11. Medicinal herb
12. Half scores
15. Type of grass
17. Oscillation
22. Son of Zeus and Hera
24. Actress Lamarr
25. Sports stadium
26. Paté ingredient
27. Bric-a-brac bazaar
28. Defeat soundly
30. Highlanders
31. Take forcibly

36. Gusto
37. Hobbies
38. Bobby of hockey et al.
40. Some curtains
44. Washed
45. Antonym of aweather
47. Dales
48. Eucharist implement
49. Slangy party
50. ¿Como ___ usted?
52. Rustler's aid
53. Oppenheimer's focus
54. Proofreading term
55. Greenbacks
58. Southern constellation



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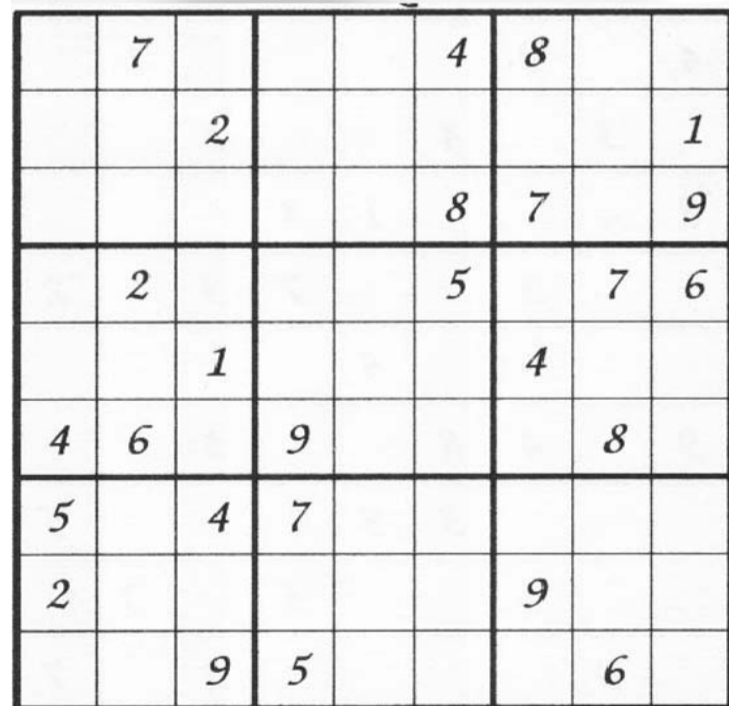
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4	9	8	2	8	5	6	1	7
7	5	6	4	1	9	8	2	3
8	1	2	6	9	7	4	5	3
5	8	3	1	2	6	7	9	4
2	6	7	9	4	8	1	5	3
9	7	1	5	8	7	8	2	6
6	8	7	8	1	2	5	7	9
1	7	9	4	5	8	2	6	3
3	2	8	7	6	9	4	1	5

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
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FINANCE

New measures to lift veil on banks' capital ratios

LONDON - The game may soon be up for banks that have made themselves look healthier by understating how risky their businesses are, which should help pension funds, savers and companies to decide which institutions to invest in.

Bowing to pressure from regulators and investors, some of the world's biggest banks will soon implement a landmark initiative that promises to reveal far more detail on how banks calculate how much capital they need to guard against potential future losses.

It's designed to restore faith in the capital ratios that are the global benchmark for banks' financial health, ratios that are highly sensitive to banks' risk judgments since they are determined as a percentage of banks' own measure of assets as weighted by risk.

"We're expecting a lot of good disclosure from the banks, and where it's not happening we're expecting institutional investors to challenge management on why they're not doing so," said Russell Picot, chief accounting officer at bank HSBC and co-chair of the industry taskforce that came up with the new standards for what banks should tell investors.

The initiative was instigated by global financial rules setter the Financial Stability Board (FSB).

A study by the Basel Committee last week showed precisely why it is necessary,

revealing that the most aggressive banks assign just one eighth of the risk weighting applied by their most conservative competitors, making their capital position appear far more robust.

Deutsche Bank came under fire on Thursday when it told investors that it managed a better-than-expected improvement to its capital ratio in the fourth quarter, despite losing 2.5 billion euros (\$3.4 billion), largely by changing its approach to risk-weighted assets (RWAs).

Even analysts who specialize in banks' finances are unable to unravel the figures and work out which banks are really the healthiest or making the most progress, because of inadequate disclosure.

The new measures, which have been publicly endorsed by industry giants including HSBC, Deutsche Bank and Santander, will reveal key insights on the RWAs that feed into the banks' capital calculations.

U.S. shale gas revolution throws down the gauntlet to Europe

MUNICH - The United States is enjoying an energy bonanza thanks to shale gas, making it a magnet for industry, reducing import dependence and challenging Europe as it battles to dig itself out of recession, energy officials say.

Panelists at a weekend security conference in Munich warned Europe must develop a strategy on how to tap its own resources in order to keep energy costs competitive, or risk seeing power-intensive industries locate elsewhere.

"The shale gas and oil boom is already underway. As Europe continues to debate it, North America is reaping the advantages," said Jorma Ollila, Chairman of Royal Dutch Shell.

Just a week ago Shell signed a \$10 billion shale gas deal with the Ukraine - the biggest contract yet in Europe

France's Hollande: No deal in sight for EU budget

PARIS (AFP) - French President Francois Hollande warned yesterday that the prospects were slim of clinching a deal this week on the European Union's next seven-year budget.

"The negotiations are very difficult. ... We are doing all we can so that we can reach an accord ... but the conditions are, at this moment, not yet in place," he told reporters.

He made the comment as EU leaders prepare to meet in Brussels on Thursday and Friday for a second attempt at finding a deal on the 27-nation bloc's trillion-euro budget for 2014-20.

Hollande's warning came a day after German Chancellor Angela Merkel said the budget negotiations would be "very difficult" and that it may take time to reach a deal.

In November, EU President Herman Van Rompuy proposed a budget of 973 billion euros (\$1.33 billion), or just over one percent of EU gross domestic product.

But European leaders were unable to resolve differences about demands for cuts in the budget by some member states and over how spending cuts should be split across different European policies.



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Fiat boss eyes Chrysler merger in 2014

ROME (AFP) - Fiat boss Sergio Marchionne said yesterday that he expected the merger of the Italian car giant and its US partner Chrysler will take place in 2014.

"We will succeed in doing it," he said in an interview with the editor of the Repubblica newspaper. "We and VEBA (the United Auto Workers pension fund -- a Chrysler shareholder) have different opinions on the value of Chrysler but we will resolve the problem in 2014."

Marchionne, who heads both companies, had said on January 30 that the ties between the two automakers were "irreversible" and would merge "as soon as I can afford it" but did not put date on the merger.

Asked yesterday if Fiat would keep its Turin headquarters, Marchionne said: "We are a big group present throughout the world, it will depend on access to financial markets and the choices of the Agnelli family" who founded Fiat.

He had "not thought" about the future name of the new en-

tity, he said.

The deal will ultimately give Fiat a 65 percent stake in Chrysler and full ownership by 2015.

Boosted by increased sales at Chrysler, the Italian giant on Wednesday reported a profitable 2012, announcing a fourth quarter net profit that rose to 388 million euros (\$525 million) from 265 million euros the year before.

The company said it was aiming for profits of between 1.2 and 1.5 billion euros this year.

Fiat took a 20 percent stake in Chrysler in 2009 as the third largest US automaker emerged from a government-financed restructuring under bankruptcy protection.

It has since steadily expanded its stake by purchasing shares owned by the US government and the VEBA fund.

The Fiat boss again reiterated the group's new change in strategy towards a luxury market and rejected rumours that Fiat would sell Alfa Romeo to Germany's top auto giant Volkswagen.



Photo above depicts a container ships in Cape Town harbour. Africa is the world's second fastest growing economy after expanding 5% a year in the past two years, well above the global average, and Africa's gross domestic product (GDP) is on track to grow by 5.3% this year. While there were risks for investors wherever they invested in the world, in Africa, political instability was no longer one of them. Presently, about three African states have conducted successful elections two times and most African states have stable political systems.

SATURDAY'S Crossword Answer

REBA	CHAINS	EEK
IVAN	HANNAH	ANA
NORTHERN	SPY	SEP
DENSE	TAPE	OTRO
LISLE	BROOK	
LAWMEN	CHIEF	
OCEANS	STET	EAR
BEST	TULSA	IDLE
ORT	DENY	THREES
HOOPS	HORNET	
STEER	TRASH	
ARID	FRAS	USAGE
RIM	SOUTHAMPTON	
APE	ARNIES	CORD
HER	WAGONS	AMES

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"The man who moves a mountain begins by carrying away small stones."

— Confucius, Confucius: The Analects

In Japan, would-be sushi chefs suffer for their art

TOKYO (AFP) - "Sometimes I cry, but only when I'm at home on my own," says Tetsuya Sakurai, one of a select few who has paid \$6,000 for an intensive -- and stressful -- training course to become a sushi chef in Tokyo.

To the untutored, a little ball of rice with a slice of raw fish on top may look like a simple affair.

But students on the twice-yearly course in the Japanese capital soon learn that for masters of the art, there is so much more to it than meets the eye.

"The best students will take at least two years before they can do this properly," said teacher Kazuki Shimoyama. "The slowest may take four."

And before they even get to the stage where they are allowed to combine the delicately formed nigiri (rice balls) with a slice of sashimi, they have to learn how to cut the fish.

For Sakurai, hunched over a fresh mackerel as he slips the razor-sharp knife through its firm flesh, it's a nerve-racking experience, made all the worse by the presence of three glowering teachers, watching his every move.

"It's very hard," he tells AFP, a month into his course. "I train at school every day.



Students try to make up sushi during a lesson of basic course

Cutting the fish is like performing surgery. But what I really don't enjoy is removing the innards from a shellfish. It's really difficult."

Like his fellow students, Sakurai eagerly answers when their tutor asks if they understand.

"To cut the fillet lengthways, pull the tail and slide the knife along. You follow?" bellows the teacher. "Yes!" the 20 shout in unison.

"Then cut each piece diagonally, making the tail end a little bigger. You follow?"

"Yes!" they reply again.

But Sakurai has not pleased his mentor this time.

"That's your attempt at cutting a mackerel? Terrible.

Do it again," he is told.

Students work in silence in a classroom where harsh neon lights glint off steel knives, threatening to expose the tiniest imperfection on the bleach-white clothes they wear.

Sushi rice -- perfectly plump Japanese shortgrain into which precisely measured quantities of rice vinegar, salt and sugar are folded -- is pressed into a large pellet in the hands.

Too much rice and it will be more than a mouthful; too little and it will be overpowered by the fish; too much pressure and it

will be hard; too little and the pellet will fall apart.

A delicate smear of wasabi -- a fiery green root that is grated into a paste -- is applied to the rice and a sliver of fish is placed on top.

"It sounds easy, but it's really hard to make them the way they are supposed to be," admits a student who gave his surname as Yamanaka. "The

teacher makes it look so easy, but it's really difficult."

If they complete the three-month course, run by the restaurant chain Sushi Zanmai -- whose boss paid a record \$1.8 million for a single fish in the first auction of the year at Tsukiji market -- students will receive a level 5

diploma.

Two years' hard graft in a restaurant and they get their level 4.

Reaching level 1 can take years.

For Sakurai, who spent two decades working as an accountant in the US and in England, the sushi school has been something of a culture shock.

"My teacher is a bit aggressive, it's almost military," he says.

"I have two more months," says Sakurai. "After school I practise in the evenings at home, especially cutting some of the shellfish. I cannot do it at all, but I'll get there."

"There" for Sakurai, is his own sushi bar "in Asia, in Japan, maybe in France. Why not?" he muses.

For teacher Shimoyama, making sushi properly is not supposed to be easy. It's a vocation, something into which a chef pours his whole heart again and again.

"Chefs gain speed and should strive to achieve the best possible sushi. They should give it their body and soul. And no matter what, they should always smile for customers."

And even when the diplomas are finished and a chef has his own place, his own regular customers, there is still more he can do to perfect his art.

"I have made sushi for 29 years," said Shimoyama. "And I am still learning."



Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest



Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to

countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are al-

ing full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards



ready enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, tak-

ing full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

Taj Mahal Restaurant, an authentic culinary excursion



When Bharat Shah, originally from India, but now a successful businessman in California, put on a spectacular wedding in Aruba for his daughter Lisa and her groom Kalpesh, they welcomed hundreds of friends and relatives from around the world, including the "old country."

When all the wedding guests had finally arrived in Aruba, Bharat hosted an official welcome party along the shore in Palm Beach, and he chose to have it catered by Taj Mahal restaurant, he was that impressed by their cuisine.

If you like your Indian food authentic, or are looking for a new and unique dining experience, an evening at Taj Mahal will deliver a memorable meal. A seemingly endless menu offers scores of choices for fish, chicken, lamb and vegetarian dishes that are "the real deal;" discover that Indian food goes way beyond curry!

A taste-testing crew from THE MORNING NEWS chose a selection of their singular starters and two main courses with saffron rice, served family style, which provided a fine example of the versatility of their chef.

Taj Mahal's Tai Choice is a great way to start the meal and be initiated into the joys of Indian cuisine, offering a diverse selection of traditional favorites. It contains hearty portions of Pakoras, crispy vegetarian fritters, Aloo Tikki, potato cutlets, Chicken Tikka, tender chicken breast pieces seasoned just right, and shaped and seasoned ground lamb, charmingly dubbed "Sheik Kebabs." All is served on a bed of sliced onions and brought to your table on a sizzling platter, and you will want to dish those sautéed onions on to one of their tasty Indian breads called Naan, leaving behind not a single crumb. Main dishes are accompanied by a choice of rice, mixed vegetables rich with garlic, or Naan, plain, buttered, onion or garlic, and you will want to order an extra basket or two of this tasty delight, on

which you can spoon your main course, as well. Poori is crispy fried naan, and most definitely worth the extra two dollars to sample with your meal.

Our group also added an appetizer of crunchy Samosas, the Indian form of a potato knish, served with either cilantro or sweet and sour sauce. A platter of their Jhinga, large, crispy-fried shrimp in a delicate batter is ample enough to serve as a main course, though featured on their appetizer menu.

As we mentioned, main courses are served family style, in beautiful little pots that sit upon a candle to keep them warm. Our group sampled the "Mutton Saagwala," also known as "Lamb Shag" which is cooked in a thick sauce of yogurt and spinach, and the "Fish Hara Masala," moist, tender chunks of fish in a rich sauce featuring cilantro as the main flavoring. This is offered in mild, medium and very spicy, we found the medium quite spicy enough for us; it left a tingle on the tongue.

The family style service allows everyone at the table to sample a bit of this and that, and we heartily recommend you do, to truly appreciate this authentic bit of India in Aruba. Open for lunch and dinner, Taj Mahal sports a cozy and intimate air-conditioned dining room and a small outdoor terrace for those that enjoy dining al fresco. They have an exotic dessert menu to match, but our group was too stuffed to partake; there was even enough left to box up and provide a lunch next day for the lucky first person to get to it!

Located behind the Royal Plaza Mall, across from Aruba's Numismatic Museum, Taj Mahal offers a dining experience that is truly out of the ordinary; they feature an excellent and tasty selection for vegetarians too. If you are a fan of Indian food, or have been toying with trying it, Taj Mahal is the place for a very affordable dining experience and the real deal! Call 588-4494 for reservations.

SPORTS

Webb wins eighth Australian Ladies Masters



Karrie Webb

GOLD COAST, Australia, Feb 3, 2013 (AFP) - Australia's Karrie Webb overhauled the overnight leaders to win a record eighth Australian Ladies Masters title at Royal Pines on Sunday.

Webb, 38, swept home on the back of four birdies in her closing six holes to win the 54-hole event by two shots.

Webb carded a final round of five-under 67 for 13-under 203 to beat overnight leaders, Australia's Oh Su-Hyun (70-64-71) and Thailand's Ariya Jutanugarn (69-65-71).

South Korea's Chella Choi also finished joint second after rounds of 69-67-69.

Webb's finish gave her a winning start to 2013 after her first-ever winless calendar year in 2012.

"I'm very happy, it never gets old to get a win here. What a way to start the year," she said.

Webb won the first of her eight titles in 1998 with her other victories coming in 1999, 2000, 2001, 2005, 2007 and 2010.

Barthel upsets Errani to claim Paris Open title



PARIS (AFP) - World number 45 Mona Barthel of Germany upset the odds to beat top seed Sara Errani of Italy 7-5, 7-6 (7/4) in the final of the Paris Open on Sunday.

Barthel seemingly had the edge on several occasions in

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Berdych wins battle of Davis Cup marathon men



Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic returns a shot

PARIS (AFP) - Tomas Berdych defeated Stanislas Wawrinka in a battle of Davis Cup marathon men on Sunday as defending champions

Czech Republic reached the quarter-finals.

The Czechs led Switzerland 2-1 overnight after Berdych and Lukas Rosol beat Wawrinka and Marco Chiudinelli 6-4, 5-7, 6-4, 6-7 (3/7), 24-22 in the longest-ever Davis Cup match, an exhausting doubles which lasted a minute over seven hours.

World number six Berdych and Wawrinka, the 17th-ranked player, returned on Sunday for the first of the reverse singles in Geneva and three hours 15 minutes later it was the Czech who triumphed again, claiming a 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (7/5) win.

"Stan is one of the players who I don't like to play. He has a dangerous game," said Berdych, of a player who also featured in a five-hour defeat to Novak Djokovic at the Australian Open last month.

"The match on Saturday will go down in history. I was ready to play. This is a team

event and the guys in the team have magic hands and told me I would be OK to play.

"You play tennis for moments like this. I will have the memories which can't be taken away," added ironman Berdych, who won all three rubbers he played this weekend.

Wawrinka insisted that despite his three matches -- he had also won his opening singles on Friday -- he would have been able to play a fifth set on Sunday.

"I care about this competition and love to play for my country," said Wawrinka, who was Switzerland's top player in the absence of Roger Federer.

"We were really close. I was up in the tiebreak today but Tomas played better and showed why he is number six in the world. Physically, I felt OK and could have played another set."

The Czech Republic will now travel to Kazakhstan in April for the quarter-finals for their second meeting with the former Soviet nation.

The Kazakhs, who beat Austria 3-1 in their World

Group clash on Sunday in Astana, knocked the Czechs out in the first round in 2011 when they squeezed out victory in the deciding rubber.

Later Sunday, five-time champions Spain looked to overturn a 2-1 deficit and beat Canada.

Marcel Granollers and Marc Lopez kept the injury-depleted Spaniards' hopes alive as they battled to a 4-6, 6-4, 6-7 (4/7), 6-3, 6-2 victory over Daniel Nestor and Vasek Pospisil in Vancouver on Saturday.

Missing top players Rafael Nadal, David Ferrer, Nicolas Almagro and Fernando Verdasco, Spain still face an uphill task.

Granollers, the world number 34 who was beaten in straight sets by 166th-ranked Frank Dancevic on Friday, will have to dig deep to find the energy to take on Canada's world number 15 Milos Raonic, while Dancevic will take on Albert Ramos.

The winners of that tie will meet either Italy or Croatia, who were standing at 2-2 in Turin, in the last eight.

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weekends

Messi penalty saves Barca at Valencia



MADRID (AFP) - A Lionel Messi penalty rescued Barcelona as they were held to a 1-1 draw at Valencia but the league leaders still maintain a 12 point advantage at the top of the table.

The four-time World Player of the Year extended

his record scoring run to 12 matches in the league with a penalty after 39 minutes with Valencia having taken the lead through Ever Banega.

Although Barca won their last league game at home to Osasuna, they lost a fortnight ago against Real Sociedad and this was a lacklustre display at the Mestalla.

Like Real Madrid who lost to Granada on Saturday night, Barca seemed to be suffering the effects of their 1-1 Spanish Cup semi-final first-leg but they still maintain a comfortable advantage over second placed Atletico Madrid who play Real Betis later on Sunday.

Barcelona rested captain Carles Puyol as former Liverpool player Javier Mascherano was thrown into central defence alongside Gerard Pique while Andres Iniesta was once again chosen in attack instead of David Villa and Alexis Sanchez.

Apart from a 5-0 thumping by Real Madrid and their elimination by the same side in the domestic Cup, Valencia have been in good form with four wins from five matches in the league.

Earlier Malaga could only draw 1-1 with Zaragoza and have now just one win from five games as they compete for a top four finish, while Sevilla beat Rayo Vallecano 2-1.

Pierce sparks Celtics over Clippers



BOSTON, Massachusetts (AFP) - Paul Pierce scored 22 points, including a clinching 3-point basket in the final seconds as the Boston Celtics beat the Los Angeles Clippers 106-104 on Sunday in

the NBA.

Jeff Green and Leandro Barbosa scored 14 points each for Boston while Jason Terry contributed 13 points and six assists while Kevin Garnett added 12 points as

the Celtics stretched their win streak to four games.

The Clippers suffered their sixth loss in eight games despite 23 points and 10 assists from Eric Bledsoe while Blake Griffin chipped in with 20 points and 11 rebounds.

Jamal Crawford, who played despite a broken nose, added 23 points and Caron Butler had 18 in a losing cause.

Clippers star guard Chris Paul is out with a bruised right kneecap while the Celtics have lost star point guard Rajon Rondo for the rest of the season with a knee injury.

Gallacher wins in Dubai



DUBAI (AFP) - In a tournament in which he could do no wrong, Stephen Gallacher of Scotland fired a timely eagle two on the par-4 16th hole and comfortably won the \$2.5 million Omega Dubai

Desert Classic in the end by three shots.

On a difficult day at the Majlis course of Emirates Golf Club, Gallacher battled it out gamely against South Africa's Richard Sterne before the magic second shot with a sandwedge from 115 yard changed the complexion of the tournament.

It was Gallacher's fifth eagle of the tournament and it helped him close the tournament with a one-under par 71 round.

That gave him a four-day tally of 22-under par 266, matching the all-time lowest winning total in the history of the tournament (Thomas Bjorn in 2001).

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Some scenes of Super Bowl in fun-loving New Orleans



NEW ORLEANS (AFP) - The bands were playing, the crawfish boiling and daiquiri's swirling Sunday as partygoers crammed bars and restaurants ahead of Super Bowl 47 -- the pinnacle sporting event that transfixes America each year.

New Orleans knows how to throw a bash and with the Super Bowl and Mardi Gras coming in the same month, football fans got a double dose of revelry in the build up to the big game.

The most watched single event in US sports was just blocks from New Orleans' Bourbon and Canal streets where fans had been rubbing shoulders all week with ath-



letes, corporate executives and Hollywood stars in town for the big bash.

The festive atmosphere



was a much needed shot in the arm both spiritually and economically for New Orleans, which was devastated by Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Celebrities like Alicia

Keyes, who sang the anthem Sunday, helped fill the VIP rooms and concerts featured everyone from Paul McCartney, to Lil Wayne to Justin Timberlake.

Many posh restaurants

were booked for private parties catered by celebrity chefs famous for their unique southern cuisine. One of those was the Metropolitan Night Club in the Warehouse District which featured award winning chef John Besh, who owns eight restaurants in New Orleans.

City officials have pulled out all the stops to let visitors know New Orleans is back in business after Katrina. The state of Louisiana provided \$6 million and the local organizing committee raised \$7.5 million to put on the game, which will also see pop star Beyonce sing at half-time.

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